

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07540 141002Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 /067 W

----- 043817

R 140854Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4795

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7540

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SENATOR FULBRIGHT)

SUBJECT: SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S CALL ON PRESIDENT

1. SENATOR FULBRIGHT ACCOMPANIED BY MESSRS. THORPE AND KERN AND MYSELF CALLED ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE AT 1300 YESTERDAY, JUNE 13. FOREIGN MINISTER DAHDAH INTERPRETED. CONVERSATION LASTED 45 MINUTES AND GROUP THEN HAD LUCH AT WHICH THEY WERE JOINED BY MRS. FRANGIE AND SON ROBERT. NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE TRANSPIRED. I WAS, HOWEVER, SHOCKED BY APPEARANCE OF PRESIDENT WHOM I HAVE NOT SEEN FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS. HE WAS NOT AT ALL ALERT. HIS USUALLY NICE SENSE OF HUMOR WAS LACKING AND AT TIMES HE STARED INTO THE DISTANCE. FOREGOING IS NOT SURPRISING HOWEVER WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT TODAY IS HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY AND THAT ON APRIL 12 FRANGIE WAS OPERATED ON FOR GALLSTONES AND THE TRAGEDY AT AIN EL-ROUMMANEH WHICH KICKED OFF THE APRIL FIGHTING OCCURRED THE NEXT DAY. PRESIDENT LEFT HOSPITAL APRIL 18 AND SINCE THEN HAS NOT HAD A SINGLE MOMENTS RESPITE. YESTERDAY FOR EXAMPLE
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07540 141002Z

WE KNOW HIS DAY BEGAN AT 8 A.M. AND HE WAS STILL

AT HIS DESK AT 8 P.M. NOT EXACTLY A PROGRAM OF
RECUPERATION FOR A MAN OF HIS AGE.

2. GIVEN THE ROLE THE PRESIDENT HAS TO PLAY IN
SOLVING THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS, I CONSIDER
FOREGOING A DISCONCERTING ELEMENT IN AN
ALREADY COMPLICATED SITUATION.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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